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A LARGE *NOTOPTERUS* FROM LUKOLELA, CONGO RIVER

BY J. T. NICHOLS AND F. R. LAMONTE

In a small collection of fishes obtained at Lukolela on the Congo River (roughly 500 miles from its mouth) in 1931 by Dr. James P. Chapin, there is a fine specimen of *Notopterus*, 355 mm. in length to base of caudal, which differs in several respects from the type specimen of *Notopterus afer* Günther figured by Boulenger (1909, 'Fresh-water Fishes of Africa,' I, p. 146). It seems to agree closely with the photograph of a large *Notopterus* in Bull. Agric. Congo Belge, XX, No. 3, p. 321, 1929, from Eala, about 110 miles farther upriver. *Notopterus afer*

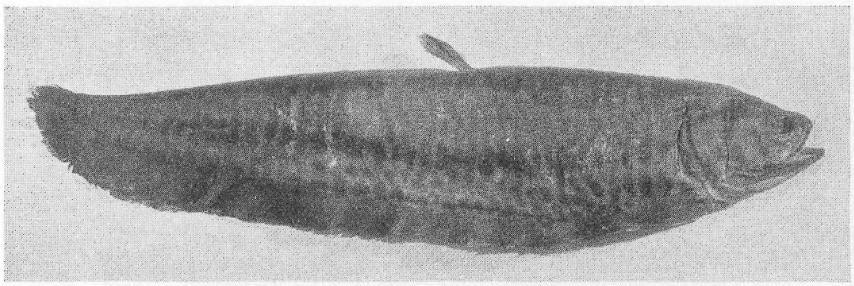

Fig. 1. *Notopterus afer congoensis*, type.

is rare in collections, and we have been unable to obtain a comparably large specimen for comparison with our Lukolela fish. The type figured by Boulenger was about 240 mm. in standard length, and a specimen of about 153 mm. from Nanna Kru, Liberia, which we have for comparison through the courtesy of Mr. J. R. Norman of the British Museum, agrees with it in those particulars wherein our larger specimen differs:

Maxillary to under middle of eye (in this Lukolela fish) instead of to, or almost to, the posterior border of eye; pectoral extending past front of anal for the last third of its length, instead of reaching or falling short of anal origin. Ground color pale, showing narrowly between irregular rounded or oval dark spots which coalesce more or less into vertical stripes, instead of ground color dark with pale markings.

We publish herewith a photograph of the specimen from Lukolela, Number 9697 American Museum of Natural History, which may provi-

sionally stand as the type of a new race, **Notopterus afer congoensis**. Its measurements follow.

Length to base of caudal, 355 mm.; depth in this length, 4.7; head, 5.1; eye in head, 6.5; snout, 4.7; interorbital, 4.2; maxillary, 2.7. Width of body, 2. Pectoral, 1.5. Greatest height of anal fin, 2.2; of dorsal fin, 2.2. Dorsal 5; anal (including caudal) about 120. Scales about 175; 32–33 scutes in abdominal ridges. Gill-rakers (on lower limb of first arch), 8.